

Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)
09/935,958	WILLIAMS ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit
Jacob Y Choi	2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 09/05/2003.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,5,6,8-16,19-23,25-30 and 32.
3. The drawings filed on 08/26/2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
(a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
(b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
(c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the claims recite a lighting device comprising an optic light guide for receiving light from a light source and propagating light therethrough via internal reflection, the light guide having a free end that emits directional light, and a sleeve surrounding the free end, the sleeve having an aperture axially outwardly spaced from the free end through which a beam of light from the free end passes, *the sleeve being selectively axially movable in and out relative to the free end prior to the during use of the device to vary the distance between the aperture and the free end to vary the size of the beam of light passing through the aperture.* Li et al. (USPN 6,129,662) does discloses (column 3, lines 35-43) the minimum variation in spacing of between 0.001 inch and 0.1 inch that may be provided between the light transmitting window and the light delivering end of fiber optic member, however does not specifically disclose the sleeve being selectively axially movable in and out relative to the free end. Because none of the references disclosed the detailed limitation of the movable sleeve to vary the size of the beam of light passing through the aperture, nor is there any motivation to combine them, the claims are deemed patentable over the prior art of record. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8-16, 19-23, 25-30, & 32 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's arguments, see 1-11, filed September 3, 2003, with respect to pending claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8-16, 19-23, 25-30, & 32 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) rejections over Li et al. (USPN 6,129,662) of 04/15/2003 has been withdrawn.

Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Miller (USPN 5,486,984) – parabolic fiber optic luminaire

Toth et al. (USPN 6,436,035) – intensity controllable hand-held surgical light

Ohsawa (USPN 5,530,780) – fiber optic laser conducting and diffusion device

Tanner (USPN 4,517,974) – disposable hand piece for surgical lasers

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacob Y Choi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2367. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (10:00-7:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-7724.

JC



Sandra O'Shea
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800